



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

August 2022

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held second Monday of every month except for January and August. 7.30pm in the Reading Room. Everyone is very welcome.

RESIDENTS MEETING 2022

Thank you to all residents who attended the Residents Meeting on 28th May. It was fantastic to speak with so many of you. It was an honour to see John Nichols presented with his Honorary Freeman of the Parish award for all his hard work over many years ensuring Yelvertoft has been maintained to a high standard. Analysis of the feedback we received at the meeting:

What do you consider the Parish Council does well?

- Things like this residents meeting (1)
- Gravel on the Cricket Field Road (2)
- Tarrys End resurfacing (2)
- Cemetery improvements (1)
- Grass cutting. Keeping the green spaces mown and tidy (2)
- Street lighting (1)
- Trying very hard to deal with all the issues that affect Yelvertoft (1)
- Communication is much improving (2)
- Responsibilities with regards to planning (1)

What do you think the Parish Council could do better?

- More connection such as the residents meeting (1)
- Pot holes (1)
- Exert pressure on the Canal & River Trust to improve the canal tow path (1)
- Gain further funding to assist with all that needs doing in Yelvertoft (1)
- I confess to being ignorant as to what the Council does (1)
- Continue to work to reduce flooding (1)
- All road drains to be cleared/cleaned regularly (1)
- The cut through at the end of Brookside never gets cut and is full of stinging nettles (1)

Suggestions/ideas for the Parish Council or Yelvertoft in general?

- Make something positive happen with regards to flooding (1)
- Organise a response to the DIRFT proposals (1)
- Improve roads such as Ashwells Lane and Brookside (2)
- Improve the side roads (1) Chase up the pot hole repairs and road surface improvements in general (1)
- Repair the bridge on Elkington Road (1)
- List in the Parish mag what the PC is responsible for and how we can help (1)

- Continue to raise the profile of the PC work/roles/responsibilities (1)
- Continue to seek the views of parishioners (1)

We are very pleased that the feedback was mainly positive. We have worked hard over recent years to try and improve communication with residents so we can listen to their views and what they want to see the Parish Council doing.

Two volunteers were recruited to help with flooding and the environment. If you are interested in helping in any area please do let us know.

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Several residents fed back that they are unsure as to what the Council is responsible for. As a guide:

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| Street lighting | Parish Council |
| Cemetery | Parish Council |
| Grass cutting | Parish Council |
| War Memorial | Parish Council |
| Dog bins | Parish Council |
| Litter bins | Parish Council |
| Allotments | Parish Council |
| Speed sign – by Church | Parish Council |
| Speed sign – by Village Hall | Northants Highways |
| Pot holes / roads | Northants Highways |
| Road signs | Northants Highways |
| Flooding | Northants Highways Environmental Agency Parish Council – can only canvass for action |
| Bridges | Northants Highways |
| Drains | Northants Highways |
| Verges | Northants Highways |
| Footpaths | Northants Highways |
| Footpaths - Rural | Northants Rights of Way |
| Bridleways | Northants Rights of Way |
| Styles | Northants Rights of Way |
| Streams/brooks | The riparian owner |
| Village Hall, play area, sports fields etc | Village Hall Management Committee |
| Planning | West Northants Council Parish Council – can only comment on applications |
| General | Parish Council – take whatever action we can regarding any issue that affects Yelvertoft |

We encourage all residents to report Highways issues such as pot holes via the Northants Street Doctor at <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

Flooding is not our responsibility but we consider this top priority and regularly liaise with the relevant bodies so we can put pressure on them to take preventative action.

RESIDENTS SURVEY

We would like to expand on the feedback received from the Residents Meeting and really need to hear from all residents. We have delivered with this newsletter a survey. Please do take the time to complete and return it to us so we know what residents want us to work on.

DIRFT EXPANDING TOWARDS YELVERTOFT – WNC SPATIAL PLAN CONSULTATION

West Northants Council are currently collating all the responses they have received to the development. We are expecting to hear from them further in the autumn.

The DIRFT IV Vision Statement contains errors as it has no mention of the effect the development will have on Yelvertoft. Yelvertoft is also not mentioned in the list of constraints. Pro Logis were questioned on this at the recent J18 Liaison Meeting but they did not respond. We are reporting the errors to WNC and are requesting that the statement is corrected. We are concerned that Pro Logis stated that if they do not get planning permission they will just go for a Development Consent Order from the Secretary of State.

CRICK BRIDLE ROAD – REPAIRS

The Canal and River Trust have now repaired both leaks. They will also make good the damage caused to the gateway of the field opposite the KGV Field with the leftover hardcore from their previous work, as well as looking at the damaged towpath near Skew Bridge.

CEMETERY

As we are now using the second half of the cemetery the path will be extended shortly. The cremated remains area along the right-hand side of the hedge will also be extended as the first half is full.

We have worked to improve the Rose Garden but watering the plants and flowers regularly is a problem. If this is something you can help with then please do let us know.

We are currently looking at unconsecrated ground for those that require a burial in such. We are liaising with the Bishop and considering options as to how we can offer this. This is a requirement of cemeteries so burials are available to everyone regardless of their faith and beliefs.

The cemetery storage container is now in situ. There are issues with the container and it needs repair work. We are liaising with the provider as the container is under warranty.

Marking of graves is an issue. We plan to mark out the next 3 rows of plots to resolve this problem. Small marker slabs will be placed at the head of the graves. They will be sunken into the grass to allow for grass mowing.

Due to drainage issues, the top left half of the cemetery will be used for burials and the top right half of the cemetery will be used for cremated remains.

SOLAR FARM and AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We are still awaiting a date as to when these developments will commence.

KGV FIELD

Volunteers are using the Parish Council tractor to mow the KGV field. We received some complaints that the grass had been allowed to get quite long. We have asked that the field is cut regularly, however, we have to respect that we are relying on volunteers and sometimes they cannot commit to mow on a regular basis. The volunteers have been asked to join the KGV Working Group and we will continue to regularly liaise with them. Please be assured that it is our intention for the field to be cut on a regular basis.

FLOODING

The flood warning cameras have not been working recently. This was reported to the Environmental Agency. One is now working again but the other isn't. We will continue to chase the repair.

NEW COUNCILLOR

We are very pleased to announce that Mark Elliott was co-opted as a Councillor at our July meeting. We still have one vacancy so if you are interested please do let us know. Having a full Council can really help us do more for Yelvertoft. Mark brings a wealth of relevant knowledge and experience to the role and will be focusing on flooding, planning, communications, and the environment.



WELLBEING WALKS

We are very pleased that the walks are being well received by residents. We plan to organise monthly walks. The next walk will be 10am on 6th August meeting at the War Memorial. Everyone is welcome. This walk will be on the Hillmorton Lane bridleway so residents can see the impact DIRFT IV will have on Yelvertoft.

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